

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 081045
ORIGIN EUR-12

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O R 292257Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS STATE 081045

USEEC; FOR CHRISTOPHER PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, CY, GR

SUBJECT:SELECTED US PRESS COVERAGE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER'S TRIP - 2

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 081045

1. THERE FOLLOW THE TEXTS OF TWO PRESS ITEMS OF MARCH 29
ON THE CHRISTOPHER MISSION: A) FROM THE BALTIMORE SUN AN
ARTICLE BY HENRY L. TREWHITT ENTITLED "U.S. DIPLOMATS SET
OUT TO ASSURE ALLIES ON EUROPE", AND B) FROM THE WASHINGTON
STAR AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "U.S. DELEGATION HOPES TO AVERT
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REASSURE AMERICAN ALLIES ON EUROPEAN ISSUES AS THE SOVIET

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UNRELATED DIRECTLY, THE ISSUES HAVE A COMMON THREAD, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S NEED TO MANAGE A SERIES OF COMPLEX EUROPEAN PROBLEMS AT THE SAME TIME. AS A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PUT IT YESTERDAY "A LOT OF THINGS ARE DEVELOPING AT ONCE."

THE TEAM OF DIPLOMATS THAT LEFT MONDAY NIGHT HAS TWO IMMEDIATE GOALS TO PREVENT AN IRREVERSIBLE DRIFT IN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND TO WIN ALLIED SUPPORT FOR DELAY IN PRODUC-

TION OF AN IMPORTANT NEW WEAPON, THE SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB.

AT THE SAME TIME THE SOVIET UNION INCREASED PRESSURE FOR EARLY COMPLETION OF A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION (SALT) TREATY. GEORGI ARBATOV, MOSCOW'S LEADING ANALYST OF U.S. AFFAIRS, WARNED THAT REJECTION OF A TREATY WOULD "TORPEDO THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DIALOGUE ON VITAL QUESTIONS OF SECURITY" AND CAUSE "A CONSIDERABLE DETERIORATION OF THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE" IN UNITED STATES-SOVIET RELATIONS.

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WRITING YESTERDAY IN PRAVDA, THE COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, MR. ARBATOV CAUTIONED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AGAINST LINKING SALT NEGOTIATIONS TO SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA OR TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS DEBATE. ONE PROBLEM, HE SUGGESTED, WAS THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WAS AFRAID TO CHALLENGE SENATORS SKEPTICAL ABOUT SALT.

TO SOME EXTENT MR. ARBATOV'S THEME WAS THE MIRROR IMAGE OF RECENT WARNINGS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS IMPLIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SEEKING NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY, NOT PARITY, AND CAUTIONED THAT SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA POISONS THE CLIMATE FOR SENATE DEBATE ON A TREATY.

BUT THE MOST IMMEDIATE EUROPEAN PROBLEMS AROSE FROM WORSENING RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND AN APPARENT CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION TACTICS REGARDING THE NEUTRON BOMB. RESOLVING THEM FELL TO A TEAM COMPOSED OF WARREN C. CHRISTOPHER, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, GEORGE S. VEST, AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND MATTHEW C. NIMETZ, THE STATE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR.

MR. CHRISTOPHER'S DEPARTURE, HOURS BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS R. VANCE, LEFT THE COUNTRY WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, PUT THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDER THE COMMAND OF RICHARD N. COOPER, UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. A DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE TEAM'S GOALS ONLY IN

BROAD GENERAL TERMS.

INFORMED OFFICIALS REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TEAM'S FIRST OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO SOOTHE THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. PREMIER BULENT ECEVIT HAS THREATENED TO TURN ELSEWHERE FOR ARMS UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION ACTIVATES A DOLS 1 BILLION PROGRAM OF U.S. AID BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH.

TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN FRAGILE SINCE ARMS
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WERE SUSPENDED IN 1975. THE ACTION FOLLOWED THE TURKISH

INVASION OF CYPRUS. ALTHOUGH A NEW EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT WAS COMPLETED IN 1976, IT HAS NOT BEEN SENT TO CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION FROM SUPPORTERS OF GREECE, A RIVAL OF TURKEY IN CYPRUS.

RELATIONS TOOK A TURN FOR THE WORSE EARLIER THIS MONTH AFTER MR. VANCE REMARKED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY. ANGRILY REJECTING THE IMPLIED LINKAGE, MR. ECEVIT DEMANDED U.S. ACTION ON THE DEFENSE CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT.

OTHERWISE, HE INDICATED, TURKEY MIGHT REVISE A WHOLE RANGE OF ITS POLICIES, PERHAPS BOYCOTTING THE SUMMIT MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION HERE IN MAY. THE FEUD BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE REPRESENTS SEVERE EROSION IN THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO.

THE MISSION OF MR. CHRISTOPHER'S TEAM IN BONN AND LONDON, WHERE IT WILL STOP BEFORE COMING HOME NEXT WEEK, MAY BE EVEN MORE AWKWARD. FOR IT MUST EXPLAIN TO THEM ADMINISTRATION REASONS FOR DELAYING A DECISION ON THE ENHANCED-RADIATION, OR NEUTRON, BOMB.

ONE REASON, ACCORDING TO A DEFENSE SPECIALIST, IS MR. CARTER'S RELUCTANCE TO ORDER PRODUCTION OF THE NEW WEAPON AS THE UNITED NATIONS PREPARES FOR A DEBATE ON ARMS CONTROL IN MAY. THE SOVIET UNION HAS DENOUNCED THE WEAPON, DESIGNED TO KILL TROOPS WHILE CAUSING RELATIVELY LITTLE PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION, IN SCATHING TERMS.

TECHNICALLY THE ADMINISTRATION HAS LEFT IT TO EUROPEAN
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ALLIES TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY WANT THE WEAPON IN NATO. BY ITS NATURE THE WEAPON OFFERS ITS GREATEST PROMISE IN CASE OF A SOVIET TANK ATTACK INTO WESTERN EUROPE.

IN FACT THE ADMINISTRATION PRIVATELY HAS ENCOURAGED ACCEPT-
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AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THE CHANGE DOES NOT IMPLY ABANDON-
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DESPITE THE WEAPON'S APPARENT SUITABILITY FOR MEETING AN
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AROUSED WIDE SUPPORT AGAINST DEATH BY RADIATION. END QUOTE.

B) QUOTE: U.S. DELEGATION HOPES TO AVERT TURKISH SHIFT.
PRESIDENT CARTER, SEEKING TO AVERT A MAJOR SHIFT BY TURKEY
AWAY FROM THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, HAS SENT A HASTILY AR-
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THE THREE-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY.

ACCORDING TO ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, CARTER DECIDED ONLY
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IT DID SO AFTER EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS LED TO THE CON-
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ECEVIT, WHO TOOK POWER IN JANUARY, HAS THREATENED IN RECENT
WEEKS TO REDUCE TURKEY'S TIES TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE BY
WITHDRAWING UNITS FROM NATO CONTROL, AND CLOSE THE AMERICAN
BASES IN TURKEY PERMANENTLY, UNLESS THE CARTER ADMINISTRA-
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INSTITUTED IN 1975 AND TO PRESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL
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BUT DESPITE STRONG URGING FROM THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND
OTHER NATO ALLIES THAT WERE ALARMED OVER THE SECURITY
SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN, CARTER HAD DELAYED
MAKING A DECISIVE MOVE ON TURKEY BECAUSE OF DOMESTIC
POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

HIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN VERY AWARE THAT ANY MOVE TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH TURKEY WOULD IMMEDIATELY RUN INTO
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THIS SO-CALLED GREEK LOBBY WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION IN 1975 THAT IMPOSED THE ARMS EMBARGO IN RETALIATION FOR TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS IN 1974 AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF 40 PERCENT OF THE ISLAND NATION, WHICH HAS AN 80 PERCENT GREEK POPULATION. TURKEY RESPONDED BY CLOSING DOWN MOST OF THE AMERICAN MILITARY BASES IN TURKEY.

SINCE THEN, THE EMBARGO HAS BEEN MODIFIED TO ALLOW TURKEY TO BUY UP TO DOLS 173 MILLION IN ARMS YEARLY. IN 1976, THE FORD ADMINISTRATION SIGNED A DEFENSE PACT THAT WOULD REOPEN THE BASES, END THE EMBARGO AND ALLOW TURKEY DOLS 1

BILLION IN MILITARY AID OVER FOUR YEARS.

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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECIDED LAST YEAR NOT TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE PACT UNTIL THERE WAS MOVEMENT TOWARD A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION.

THREE MONTHS AGO, THE ADMINISTRATION DECIDED ON A STRATEGY UNDER WHICH IT WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT TO CONGRESS URGING PASSAGE OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT IF ECEVIT WOULD MAKE NEW PROPOSALS FOR SOLVING THE CYPRUS SITUATION.

BUT WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE DISCLOSED THIS STRATEGY EARLIER THIS MONTH BEFORE A SENATE COMMITTEE, ECEVIT RESPONDED ANGRILY BY DENOUNCING THE "LINKAGE" AND REFUSING TO MAKE ANY CYPRUS PROPOSALS.

THIS SITUATION HAS PRESENTED THE ADMINISTRATION WITH A DIFFICULT DECISION, SINCE IT HAS BEEN PLANNING TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON ITS POLICY TOWARD TURKEY, FIRST IN MARCH AND NOW ON APRIL 6.

AS A RESULT OF INTENSIVE CONSULTATION, SOME ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THERE IS AN INCLINATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO SEEK A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY WITHOUT NECESSARILY SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. ONE REASON CARTER SENT THE MISSION TO TURKEY, OFFICIALS SAID, WAS TO TEST ANKARA'S REACTION. END QUOTE. COOPER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUFRSHH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

EUCOM

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS STATE 081045

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED MARCH 29,
1978 SENT BONN INFO ANKARA, ISTANBUL, ATHENS, NICOSIA,
BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, LONDON, USNATO, ADANA, IZMIR IS
REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Message ID: 9e6e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3167365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SELECTED US PRESS COVERAGE OF DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S TRIP - 2
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, CY, GR, (WARREN, CHRISTOPER)
To: BONN INFO ANKARA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9e6e5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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US Department of State
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